WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS
FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES
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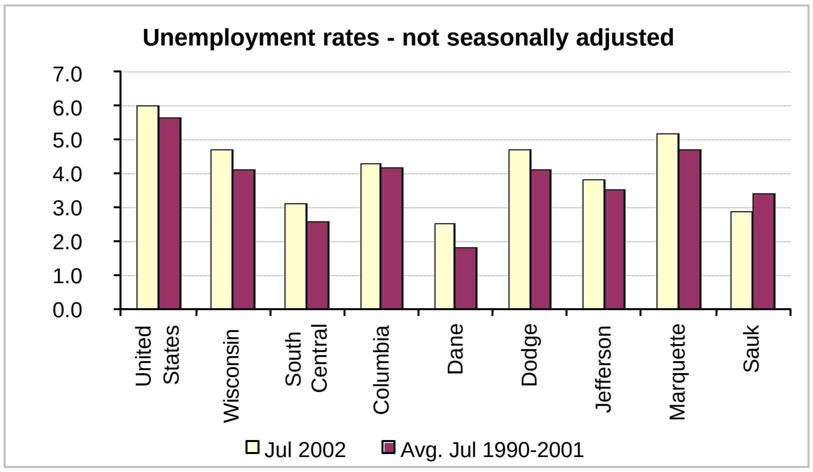
State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Note: Starting next month, advance copies of this publication will be available via email. Anyone wishing to receive an advance copy should email Dan.Barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

The hustle of summer leaves questions for fall

In July, the unemployment rate remained steady in the United States (6.0%), fell in Wisconsin (from 5.1% to 4.7%) and fell in 66 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, including all six counties in the South Central region, with Dane County reporting the state's lowest rate (2.5%).

Sauk was the only County reporting an unemployment rate lower than the average of the rates reported each June from 1990 to 2001 (see graph at right). A small rebound in Sauk County's manufacturing employment helped, but services and retail employment related to recreation and tourism contributed more jobs. Sauk County was also the only one in the region to report strong labor force growth. Seasonal labor force fluctuations are more pronounced in Sauk County than elsewhere in the region, so this growth does not suggest continued hiring in fall or elsewhere.



Marquette County was the only one in the region to report a smaller unemployment rate drop than usual (see graph on second page). Falling unemployment in Jefferson and Dodge Counties was particularly encouraging because the recent downturn had hit them harder than the rest of the area. In both Counties, manufacturing employment remains well below year-ago levels, but recent modest increases in employment foster hope, as do national figures indicating positive growth in productivity and new orders. Sustained hiring in manufacturing will require consumer confidence and business investment to consistently grow faster than productivity.

Across South Central Wisconsin typical summer trends continue to stand out: 1) students and seasonal workers enter the labor force and 2) school and college jobs disappear for the summer. The former contributes to swelling labor force numbers that usually peak around July due to construction, tourism and agriculture. The latter trend accounts for declining government employment, which usually bottoms out in August and spikes

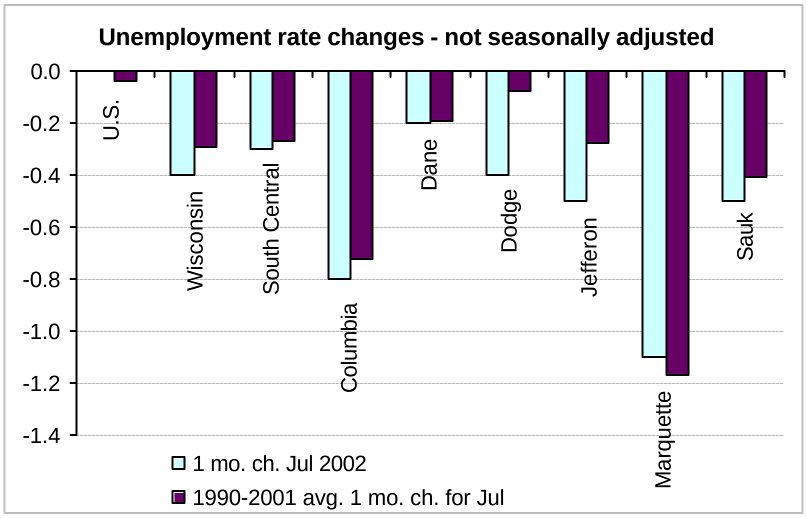
Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

July 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
				July 2002				
Civilian Labor Force*	3,117,000	459,500	284,200	30,300	50,000	45,400	7,900	41,700
Employed	2,970,600	445,400	277,100	29,000	47,700	43,700	7,500	40,500
Unemployed	146,400	14,100	7,100	1,290	2,400	1,730	410	1,220
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.7	3.1	2.5	4.3	4.7	3.8	5.2	2.9
				Change From June 2002				
Civilian Labor Force*	3,300	4,700	3,400	340	250	-130	60	760
Employed	16,100	6,000	3,900	570	410	80	150	940
Unemployed	-12,800	-1,300	-450	-220	-160	-210	-80	-180
Unemployment Rate (%)	-0.4	-0.3	-0.2	-0.8	-0.4	-0.5	-1.1	-0.5
				Change From July 2001				
Civilian Labor Force*	56,400	10,100	7,200	1,090	-470	650	270	1,320
Employed	50,500	9,000	5,800	1,130	10	560	290	1,200
Unemployed	5,800	1,120	1,450	-40	-480	90	-20	120
Unemployment Rate (%)	0.1	0.2	0.4	-0.3	-0.9	0.1	-0.5	0.2

* Includes people residing in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers, results are rounded

in September as cook, aid, driver and other positions are filled again. With the area's highest concentration of school and college workers, Dane County sees the largest fluctuations in government employment.

Dane County demonstrates another trend in South Central Wisconsin: strong seasonal increases in construction employment masking the fact that the sector has not regained all the strength it had during the late 1990s. Dry weather has helped a bit, but it has not restored construction employment to levels enjoyed during the boom. In contrast, Dane County's retail trade sector made up for a lack luster June with a stronger July.



The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that youths (aged 16 to 24) are less likely to enter the labor force than they were in years past. If they do look for work, youths are slightly more likely to remain unemployed this summer than they were in the past three summers. The national data does not focus on Wisconsin, but the implication for South Central Wisconsin would not be favorable. Dane County has a high concentration of youths who use summer wages to pay tuition and living expenses during the

Please see non-metro wage estimates now available at http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi/laborshed.htm

Payroll employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted

July 2002 Estimates	Wisconsin	South Central WI	Madison MSA	Columbia County	Dodge County	Jefferson County	Marquette County	Sauk County
July 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	2,847,300	437,900	295,500	23,000	35,800	38,300	3,900	41,400
Construction & Mining	139,100	21,600	13,900	1,190	2,500	1,290	340	2,400
Manufacturing	573,600	69,200	30,500	5,900	12,300	11,600	1,180	7,600
Transport & Public Util.	129,500	14,800	10,300	660	1,250	1,480	80	1,050
Wholesale Trade	139,600	17,300	12,100	780	1,090	1,360	110	1,870
Retail Trade	512,900	77,600	50,400	4,700	5,100	7,700	730	9,000
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	154,700	27,600	24,200	430	810	850	120	1,190
Services	810,000	121,000	83,600	5,600	7,600	10,000	730	13,400
Government	388,000	88,800	70,400	3,700	5,200	3,900	660	4,900
Change From June 2002								
Total jobs, all industries**	-24,000	-440	40	30	-300	-540	40	280
Construction & Mining	2,300	860	690	50	50	30	0	60
Manufacturing	-20	770	350	90	140	60	0	130
Transport & Public Util.	-3,100	-360	-170	-20	-110	-20	0	-50
Wholesale Trade	-150	-110	-100	10	-20	-10	0	10
Retail Trade	1,360	590	500	50	-70	-120	10	230
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	770	30	20	0	0	10	0	0
Services	3,300	940	360	140	30	-90	40	470
Government	-28,600	-3,200	-1,600	-290	-330	-400	0	-560
Change From July 2001								
Total jobs, all industries**	-4,500	9,400	7,500	1,250	-1,060	-430	-40	2,100
Construction & Mining	-590	-1,090	-1,070	40	60	-60	-40	-30
Manufacturing	-49,500	-3,500	-1,220	190	-1,440	-1,240	-20	270
Transport & Public Util.	-2,900	220	350	-80	80	-170	-10	50
Wholesale Trade	-1,180	-750	-690	-20	-50	-80	10	70
Retail Trade	9,700	2,300	1,600	-90	100	280	-40	450
Finance, Ins. Real Estate	4,900	2,200	2,200	-30	-20	50	10	50
Services	28,200	8,500	6,300	650	150	740	60	650
Government	6,900	1,400	110	600	50	50	-10	600

**Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. **Includes employment with employers located in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100.

Look for the most current Labor Market Information at: www.dwd.state.wi.us/lmi.

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